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REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-12 are pending. Claims 1, 6, and 8 are independent, and each is amended. Claim 12 is added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Claim for Priority

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. A certified copy of the priority document will be filed in due course.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 24, 2001. An initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 has been returned by the Examiner. No further action is necessary at this time.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claim 8 because of several informalities. In order to overcome this objection, claim 8 is amended herein in order to address of issue pointed out by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

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In order to overcome this rejection, claims 1, 6, and 8 are amended herein to address the issue pointed out by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as amended, particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1-5 and 9-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Soules et al. (U.S. 5,522,623);

claims 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soules et al. in view of Sano et al. (U.S. 3,392,826); and

claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Soules et al. in view of Sano et al. as applied to claim 6, and further in view of Modlin et al. (U.S. 6,097,025).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claims 1, 6, and 8 are amended herein to recite combinations of elements (claims 1 and 6) and method steps (claim 8) including an overlay film integrated with an outer surface of said at least first and second sheet members laminated together, the overlay film having a magnetic strip layered on an outer surface thereof.

Full support for overlay film and the magnetic recording strip can be found in the specification, for example on page 6, lines 8-10, and page 8, lines 23-25.

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When the information carrier medium of the present invention is personalized, a security code of the card's owner is recorded to the magnetic recording strip. When the card is read by the reader, the security indicium and the security code are read, and it is checked whether the security code matches with the security indicium. Therefore, verification of the identity of the owner can be performed only by comparing the security code read from the magnetic recording strip with a security indicium formed between the first and second sheet members. The security is guaranteed by both security code and security indicium. Because the security indicium is invisible and it cannot be disclosed to the outside, the result of the verification can be trusted, and counterfeiting of a card can be prevented.

Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements and method steps as set forth in independent claims 1, 6, and 8 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Soules et al. Specifically, the Soules et al. document fails to teach or suggest an overlay film integrated with an outer surface of said at least first and second sheet members laminated together, the overlay film having a magnetic strip layered on an outer surface thereof.

In view of the above amendments and arguments, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combinations of elements and method steps as set forth in independent claims 1, 6, and 8 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Soules et al. and Sano et al., for the reasons explained above.

The Examiner will note that dependent claim 12 is added to recite that the materials for ensuring a high level security (page 5, lines 23 to page 6, line 10). By using the materials set forth in claim 12, the information carrier medium is integrated as one body.

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Therefore, claims 1, 6, and 8 and the claims depending therefrom are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

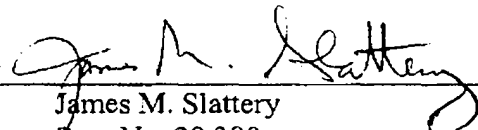
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
James M. Slattery
Reg. No. 28,380
P. O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

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Attachment
JMS:CTT:mlr
